

HF Happenings 841

Volume 18, Issue 51, the week of 1 April 2019

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp
Southern African Fauna and Flora https://zsfaunaandflora.wordpress.com/

ZS SOTA https://zssota.wordpress.com

Zone 38 Award and others https://zone38award.wordpress.com/

5 MHz (60 metre) allocations http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp



The SARL 80 M QSO Party

Please take note that the e-mail address in the 2019 Blue Book for your log for the 80 m QSO Party is wrong. The Durban ARC changed the e-mail address in March 2019. Log sheets in MS Excel format ONLY must be submitted by 11 April 2019 by e-mail to louis.zs5lp@gmail.com.

YL Beam Available on the League Web Site

Heather Holland, ZS5YH produces a monthly newsletter called YL Beam which is distributed via e-mail. You can now download a copy from the League website - click on the link on the front page.

Bouvet Island, 3Y0I

"After an exceptionally difficult, demanding and unlucky attempt to reach Bouvet Island", the 3YOI DXpedition team arrived back in Cape Town on 2 April. "The expedition is set for another attempt", whose "time-frames and details will be announced later this month". In the meanwhile, read "The official statement of Mr. Anthony Burke - the MV Atlantic Tuna's captain" on https://bouvetoya.org/blog/

Word to the Wise

Buckshot - another term for signal splatter, usually caused by too-high microphone gain combined with compression.

Visit my Shack

April

1 – closing date VHF/UHF Analogue logs

2 - Provincial schools open; World Autism Awareness Day

4 - SARL 80 m QSO Party

4 to 14 – Start of Sandstone, Ficksburg 6 - RaDAR Challenge; Pretoria ARC Flea market

6 and 7 - SARL VHF/UHF Digital contest

7 – World Health Day

12 – International Day of Human Space Flight; closing date 80 m logs 12 and 13 - SARL Day of the Radio Amateur, Stellenbosch

14 - Palm Sunday

15 – the closing date for RaDAR logs

16 - Highway ARC meeting

18 – World Amateur Radio Day

18 to 21 – Lush Festival, Clarens

19 – Good Friday

20 - Two Oceans Marathon; Autumn QRP Contest. ZS4SRK Balloon Contest

19 and 20 - Holyland DX contest

21 to 27 - Pesach

21 – Easter Sunday; ZS4 Sprint; MAY RAE registration closes

22 – Family Day; Earth Day

23 - Lyrid meteor showers

24 – closing date for May Radio ZS

25 to 28 – HuntEX, Johannesburg

26 – South Coast Bike Festival,

Margate

26 to 28 - Plaaskombuisfees, Prince Albert

26 to 29 - Karoo Kosfees, Cradock

27 - Freedom Day

29 – closing date QRP logs, ZS4 logs and VHF digital logs

29 April to 5 May - Afrikaburn, Tankwa Karoo George, K5TR, opened up his station for a tour and operation by Johnny, W5KV. His visit also coincided with the ARRL International DX Contest. In Johnny's video of the visit, you get to see the shack, antennas, and listen in on some contest operation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-jtZ2j18XM.

Youth-oriented operations for the CQ WW WPX Contest

Holger, ZL3IO, writes about the Youth Contesting Activity at ZM4T in the just-completed CQ WW WPX Contest: "The operators were ZL2EM, Alice (17), ZL4YL, Xenia (17) and Jaidyn, ZL4WW (15). For Jaidyn it was actually the first time he got on the HF bands! Most of the time the kids (especially the girls) managed themselves. The girls... are regulars here and know the station. The conditions were terrible. 10 metres was a no-show. 15 metres was like a bad day on 10 with deep QSB and signals only coming out of the noise for seconds before they disappeared again. We had strong auroral flutter on all DX on 10 metres even though we have no polar path to JA or US. 40 metre conditions were good and... it was the money band here. Around New Zealand we have a lot of water, but only 100 - 200 potential contesters within a 10 000 km



Jaidyn, ZL4WW, was part of the all-youthoperator-team @ ZM4T for the CQ WW WPX Contest. It was his first time on the HF bands. [Holger Hannemann, ZL3IO, photo]

radius. With high band conditions being in bad shape it meant many slow hours of calling CQ into the noise. It seemed everybody was on 40/20 metres and when finally, there was some business, holding a frequency was tough to impossible for the kids. We shut down the station at local Sunday 10 pm, which is around Sunday 9 am UTC since they all had to be back in school on Monday morning. We hope we can repeat this."

At the time of this writing, Team Exuberance at K3LR is looking very strong in the results for the CQ WPX SSB contest on 3830scores.com. According to Tim, K3LR: "Looks like a new 3rd call area all-time record for Team Exuberance in the CQ WPX phone contest!" They are reporting 23,796,192 points, with 6008 contacts. The team included Violetta, KM4ATT; Marty, NN1C; Tomi, HA8RT; Bryant, KG5HVO; David, VE7DZO; and Levi, K6JO.

At 9A7P, 14-year-old Jakov was the operator.

Operating Tip

Monitor your Transmitted Signal - if you are using an amplifier and compression, a good practice is to monitor your transmitted signal for



Team Exuberance: Violetta, KM4ATT; Marty, NN1C; Tomi, HA8RT; Bryant, KG5HVO; David, VE7DZO; and Levi, K6JO. They operated K3LR to a potential record for the 3rd call area in the CQ WW WPX Contest.

splatter, hum, distortion, and other undesirable characteristics using spectral monitoring tools. Since many modern radios ship with these capabilities built in, you could probably ask another operator

with these tools to take a picture of your signal with their phone and send it to you. A splatter-infused 8-kHz-wide signal caused by gratuitous compression might earn some elbow room in crowded band conditions during a contest, but the cost might be a DQ from the contest sponsor for "unsportsmanlike conduct." Make sure you understand what you're seeing, and that the methods used reflects transmission characteristics and not artefacts of the receiving setup.

African DX

Contacts with stations on the African continent count towards the SARL's All Africa Award (www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp)

Mauritania, 5T. Evert, PA2KW will be active as 5T2KW from Nouadhibou, Mauritania between 5 and 19 April. He will be guest operating from 5T5PA's QTH using CW and maybe some SSB. QSL via Club Log's OQRS (preferred) and LoTW.

Somalia, 60. Ali, EP3CQ will be active again as 60100 from Somalia starting on 15 April for one month. Usually he operates FT8 mostly on 20 and 40 metres; his activity on the bands is limited to his spare time. QSL direct to Ali Solhjoo, Schnackenburgstr. 3, 12159 Berlin, Germany.

Ghana, 9G. Matteo, IZ4YGS will be active again as 9G5GS from Sanzule, Ghana starting on 13 April. In his spare time, typically between 21:00 and 00:00 UTC, he will operate mainly FT8 on 160 to 20 metres (Fox & Hound mode on 3 567, 7 056, 10 131 and 14 090 kHz). QSL via eQSL, or direct to home call; log search on Club Log.

eSwatini, 3DA and Lesotho, 7P. Pista, HA5AO will be active as 3DA0AO from eSwatini (Swaziland) for 14 days during the second half of September and as 7P8AO from Lesotho for 14 to 16 days during the first half of October. He will operate CW, RTTY and FT8 on 80 to 10 metres from both locations. The actual dates will be announced in due course. Log search and OQRS will be available at https://www.ha5ao.com/.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Djibouti, J2. Chris, EA3NT will be active as J20NT from mainland Djibouti on 13 and 14 April while waiting for the rest of the J20DX team to arrive. In order

to avoid clashing with the KH8 expedition FT8 frequencies, he will operate Fox & Hound mode on 3 577, 7 061, 10 141, 14 085, 18 104 and 21 090 kHz (usual frequencies for 12, 10 and 6 m). J20DX is expected to be operational from Kadda Dabali Island (AF-059) by 16 April for up to three days. After that they will be active as J20DX/p from Moucha Island (AF-053) for about 24 hours. The team will have a SPOT Trace tracker which will be activated once they get underway - see https://j20dx.com/ for the link.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 1 to 8 April 2019

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW

19:00 - 20:30 UTC 1 April

Geographic Focus: United Kingdom

Participation: Worldwide

Awards: United Kingdom

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only Classes: (none) Exchange: RST and serial no QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 2 April 2019 Upload log at: <a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-vc-rsgbcc.org

bin/hfenter.pl Mail logs to: (none) Find rules at:

https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2019/r80

mcc.shtml

ARS Spartan Sprint 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 2 April

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m Classes: Skinny; Tubby Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and

power

Work stations: Once per band Submit logs by: 4 April 2019

E-mail logs to: spartansprint@yahoo.com

Mail logs to: (none) Find rules at:

http://arsqrp.blogspot.com/2009/02/so-whats-spartan-sprint-and-how-do-i.html

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 3 April

Geographic Focus: United States

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country,

name and power output QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 4 April 2019

E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:

http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter rules.htm

Phone Fray

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 3 April

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name state, province or

country; non-NA: Name Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country

(except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 5 April 2019

E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:

http://www.3830scores.com

Mail logs to: (none) Find rules at:

http://www.perluma.com/Phone Fray Contes

t Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 3

April and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 4 April Geographic Focus: Worldwide Participation: Worldwide Awards: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and - state, province or

country

Work stations: Once per band QSO Points: 1 point per QSO Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 6 April 2019

Post log summary at:

http://www.3830scores.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/

UKEICC 80 m Contest 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 3 April Geographic Focus: Europe Participation: Worldwide

Mode: SSB Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op Connected - QRP, low or high; Single Op Unconnected - QRP, low or

high

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: 4-Character grid square

QSO Points: 1 point per 500 km (10 pts max); multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points

Submit logs by: 22:00 UTC 3 April 2019

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: http://logs.ukeicc.com/cgi-

bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.ukeicc.com/which-contest-ukeicc-80 m-contests-

rules

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest

17:00 - 18:00 UTC (CW) and 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (SSB) and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (FM) and 20:00 -

21:00 UTC 4 April (Dig)

Geographic Focus: Nordic Europe

Participation: Worldwide Mode: CW, SSB, FM, Digital

Bands: 10 m Only Classes: (none)

Exchange: RS(T) and 6-character grid square

QSO Points: (see rules) Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points

Submit logs by: 18 April 2019

Upload log at:

http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=e

<u>n</u>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.nrau.net/activity-

contests/below-30mhz.html

SKCC Sprint Europe

19:00 - 21:00 UTC 4 April Geographic Focus: Europe Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, state, province or country,

name and SKCC no or power Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country

once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 11 April 2019 E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at:

http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activiti es/skse/submit-display.php?submit_id=165

Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:

http://www.skccgroup.com/operating activiti

es/skse/

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 5 April

Geographic Focus: United States

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country,

name and power output QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 6 April 2019

E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 5 April

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: RTTY Bands: (see rules) Classes: (none) Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 7 April 2019 E-mail logs to: (none) Post log summary at:

http://www.3830scores.com/

Mail logs to: (none) Find rules at:

http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 5 April

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: (see rules) Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 7 April 2019 E-mail logs to: (none) Post log summary at:

http://www.3830scores.com/

Mail logs to: (none) Find rules at:

http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

LZ Open 40 m Sprint Contest 04:00 - 08:00 UTC 6 April Geographic Focus: Worldwide Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Op;

Straight Key; Lady Ops Max power: QRP: 5 W

Exchange: 3-Digit Serial no and 3-Digit Serial no

received from last QSO

Work stations: Once each 30 minutes

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points

Submit logs by: 16 April 2019 E-mail logs to: LZ1GL@yahoo.com

Mail logs to: (none) Find rules at:

http://www.lzopen.com/lzocc40/indexF.htm

PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavours Contest 10:00 UTC 6 April to 04:00 UTC 7 April

Geographic Focus: Worldwide Participation: Worldwide

Mode: BPSK31, QPSK31, BPSK63, QPSK63,

BPSK125, QPSK125 Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: QRP; Low; Medium Max operating hours: 6 hours

Max power: Medium: 50 watts; Low: 20 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: 070 members: - state, province or country and member no; Non-members: - state, province or country and name Work stations: Once per PSK variant

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each state, province and DXCC

country once per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 14 April 2019

Upload log at: http://hamclubs.info/scorer

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.podxs070.com/o7o-

club-sponsored-contests/31-flavors

Mississippi QSO Party

14:00 UTC 6 April to 02:00 UTC 7 April Geographic Focus: United States/Canada

state/province QSO party Participation: Worldwide Mode: CW, SSB, Digital

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF/UHF

Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op; Mobile; Mobile and Driver; Portable Single Op; Portable Multi-

Op

Exchange: MS: RS(T) and county; non-MS: RS(T) and state, province or country Work stations: Once per band per mode QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points

per CW/digital QSO

Multipliers: MS stations: Each MS county, state, province, and DXCC country once; Non-

MS stations: Each MS county once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 30 April 2019

E-mail logs to: w5xx@vicksburg.com
Mail logs to: Vicksburg ARC, 64 Lake Circle

Drive, Vicksburg, MS 39180, USA

Find rules at:

http://www.arrlmiss.org/2019 Mississippi QS O Party Rules.pdf

Missouri QSO Party

14:00 UTC 6 April to 04:00 UTC 7 April and

14:00 - 20:00 UTC 7 April

Geographic Focus: United States/Canada

state/province QSO party Participation: Worldwide Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF/UHF Classes: Missouri Fixed - Single Op - QRP, low or high or Multi-Op; Fixed Overlay: Rookie; Missouri Expedition - Single Op - QRP, low or high or Multi-Op; Missouri Mobile - Single Op LP CW/SSB/Mixed or Multi-Multi Unlimited or Multi-Op LP; Non-Missouri - Single Op - QRP, low or high or Multi-Op or Canada; DX - Single-Op or Multi-Op

Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: MO: RS(T) and county; non-MO W/VE: RS(T) and state, province or territory;

DX: RS(T) and "DX"

Work stations: Once per band per mode QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW/digital QSO; Bonus: 100 points for at least one QSO with a special event station (WOMA, KOGQ); 100 points for submitting a

Cabrillo log electronically

Multipliers: MO: Each MO county, state, province and territory once; MO: Maximum of one DXCC country once; Non-MO: Each MO

county once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO

points x total mults) and bonus Submit logs by: 7 May 2019

E-mail logs to: moqsoparty@w0ma.org

Mail logs to: Boeing Employees' Amateur Radio Society W0MA, c/o George Mackus, AB0RX, 11841 Wexford Place Drive, Maryland Heights,

MO 63043, USA Find rules at:

http://www.w0ma.org/index.php/missourigso-party

Florida State Parks on the Air 14:00 - 22:00 UTC 6 April and 14:00 - 22:00 UTC 7 April Geographic Focus: United States/Canada

state/province QSO party Participation: Worldwide Mode: CW, SSB, Digital Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - FL park, FL or non-FL - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single - FL park, FL or non-FL - QRP, low or high; Multi-Multi - FL park, FL or

non-FL - QRP, low or high

Max power: QRP: 5 watts; LP: 100 watts; HP:

>100 watts

Exchange: FL Park: park ID; non-FL Park: state

or province; DX: RS(T) and "DX"

Work stations: Once per band per mode QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus: 10 points per QSO with K4LKL; Bonus: 15 points for at

least one QSO via satellite

Multipliers: Each FL park once per band per

mode

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 21 April 2019 E-mail logs to: logs@flspota.org

Mail logs to: Florida State Parks on the Air, c/o LARC, PO Box 90853, Lakeland, FL 33804-0853,

USA

Find rules at: http://flspota.org/rules/

SP DX Contest

15:00 UTC 6 April to 15:00 UTC 7 April

Geographic Focus: Poland Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band Mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Three Band Mixed; Single Op All Band Phone - low or high; Single Op All Band CW - low or high; Single Op Single Band Phone; Single Op Single Band CW; Multi-Op All

Band Mixed; SWL Mixed

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: SP: RS(T) and 1-character province;

non-SP: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per band per mode QSO Points: SP: 3 points per QSO outside of Europe; SP: 1 point per QSO with non-SP Europe; non-SP: 3 points per QSO with SP Multipliers: SP: Each DXCC country once per band regardless of mode; non-SP: Each SP province once per band regardless of mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 30 April 2019

E-mail logs to: spdxc-logs@pzk.org.pl

Upload log at:

https://spdxcontest.pzk.org.pl/2019/

Mail logs to: Polski Zwiazek Krotkofalowcow, SPDX Contest Committee, PO Box 320, 00-950

Warszawa, Poland Find rules at:

https://spdxcontest.pzk.org.pl/2019/rules.php

EA RTTY Contest

16:00 UTC 6 April to 16:00 UTC 7 April

Geographic Focus: Worldwide Participation: Worldwide

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high;

Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op

Max power: High: >100 watts; Low: 100 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: EA: RSQ and province; non-EA: RSQ

and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: EA: 2 points per QSO with EA; EA: 1 point per QSO with non-EA; non-EA: 3 points per QSO with EA; non-EA: 1 point per QSO with

non-EA

Multipliers: Each EADX100 entity once per band; Each EA province once per band; Each QSO with EA4URE once per band; Each USA,

VE, JA or VK call area once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 April 2019

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at:

http://concursos.ure.es/en/logs/

Mail logs to: (none) Find rules at:

http://concursos.ure.es/en/eartty/bases/

RSGB RoLo SSB

19:00 - 20:30 UTC 7 April Geographic Focus: Worldwide Participation: Worldwide

Mode: SSB Bands: 80 m Only Classes: (none)

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: RS and previous 6-character grid

square received

QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with UK station

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 8 April 2019 Upload log at: http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-

bin/hfenter.pl Mail logs to: (none) Find rules at:

https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2019/rolo.sh

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Department of Defence to Transmit Interoperability Exercise Info via WWV/WWVH

The US Department of Defence (DOD) plans to start making use of a provisional time slot on WWV and WWVH to announce upcoming HF military communication exercises and how the Amateur Radio community can become involved in them. The announcements will occur at 10 minutes past on WWV and at 50 minutes past on WWVH. WWV and WWVH

transmit on 2.5, 5, 10, 15, and 20 MHz.

"DOD's use of the broadcast time slot on WWV/WWVH will benefit the MARS program's mission of outreach to the Amateur Radio community," said US Army Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY. "The actual messages to be broadcast are coordinated by the DOD Headquarters that the MARS program supports."

The initial announcements are set for the period from 20 April to 3 May, which coincides with the "Vital Connection" interoperability exercise to be held in Wisconsin. Future time slots will coincide with the Vital Connection exercise Ohio in June; DOD COMEX 19-3 in August and the DOD COMEX 19-4 in October.



Following the proof of concept this year, DOD anticipates making use of the WWV/WWVH broadcast time slot full-time, year-round.

At the outset, broadcast messages will likely be static. For future exercises, announcements could be updated throughout an exercise. The messages will direct listeners to a specified website to provide reception reports and feedback.

The reception report will also ask the listener to submit a survey that will be shared among DOD, MARS, and WWV/WWVH personnel. English said that the survey will ask listeners questions about how often they listen to WWV/WWVH signals, how they use them, and what types of messages they would like to hear, but he notes that the survey is still under development.

"We want to provide feedback to WWV/WWVH to improve situational awareness of who is using their service and how it's being used, as well as future considerations," English said.

Next Week's Contests

NAQCC CW Sprint, 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 10 April

Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 10 April

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 10 April and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 11 April

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 10 April

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 12 April

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 12 April

QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 13 April

JIDX CW Contest, 07:00 UTC 13 April to 13:00 UTC 14 April

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 13 April to 24:00 UTC 14 April

OK/OM DX SSB Contest, 12:00 UTC 13 April to 12:00 UTC 14 April

F9AA PSK Cup, 12:00 UTC 14 April to 12:00 UTC 15 April

FT8 DX Contest, 12:00 UTC 13 April to 12:00 UTC 14 April

New Mexico QSO Party, 14:00 UTC 13 April to 02:00 UTC 14 April

Texas State Parks on the Air, 14:00 UTC 13 April to 02:00 UTC 14 April and 14:00 - 20:00 UTC 14 April

Georgia QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 13 April to 03:59 UTC 14 April and 14:00 - 23:59 UTC 14 April

North Dakota QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 13 April to 18:00 UTC 14 April

Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest, 21:00 UTC 13 April to 21:00 UTC 14 April

WAB 3.5/7/14 MHz Data Modes, 10:00 - 12:00 UTC (FT8) and 12:00 - 14:00 UTC (RTTY) and 14:00 -

16:00 UTC (PSK) and 16:00 - 18:00 UTC (FT8) and 18:00 - 20:00 UTC (RTTY) and 20:00 - 22:00 UTC 14 April (PSK)

International Vintage HF Contest, 12:00 - 18:00 UTC 14 April

Hungarian Straight Key Contest, 15:00 - 16:00 UTC 14 April

ARRL Rookie SSB Roundup, 18:00 - 23:59 UTC 14 April

4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 15 April

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC News,